NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1877.

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# WASHINGTON.

GOVERNMENTAL THEMES,

PREARATIONS FOR THE PARIS EXHIBITION -CAUSES OF THE HURON DISASTER - CONGRESSIONAL NEWS, Mr. McCormick is hastening the work of or ganizing for the Paris exhibition. The plans of the Agricultural Bureau are explained in despatches below. Three ships will be supplied to carry the exhibits to Paris. The decision in the case of the Huron is that bad scamanship was the cause of the wreck, the ship being stanch and sound. Ex-Senator Hitchcock is mentioned for the Consulate-General at Paris. Rumor is busy in regard to Mr. Coakling's Mexican investigation. Mr. Blaine and other Senators go to Arkansas for the

AMERICA'S EXHIBIT AT PARIS. AN ELABORATE SHOW OF AGRICULTURAL RICHES -WOOL-THREE SHIPS TO CARRY AMERICAN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 .- General Le Due, of the Agricultural Department, has already had several interviews with Commissioner-General McCormick to be made by the agricultural department at the Paris Exposition. The most important point to be tain. The President and a portion of his Cabidecided at once is what portion of the appropriation of \$150,000 can be devoted to this special branch of the American contribution. At best, the amount

cu considered. The details will be modified or extended as circumstances may admit. Some idea of what this plan is may be gathered from the following: In forestry, cuttings of every useful variety of timber which grows in this country will be prepared and each cutting will show as far as is practicable a ection of the wood with the bark and grain, and the which it is capable of receiving, Special products of the forest will be shown, and among them the Southern moss, which is used in upholstery, the palmetto and other woods, the res of which enter into the manufacture of per. In continuation of the list of exhibits may shown the dairy products of the North with model of a New-England dairy; honey illustratthe improved methods of bee culture; tobacc in all its varieties, with illustrations of its cul ture, curing and methods of preparation use; maple sugar, with the sap and sycup; samples of all the varieties of essential oil manufactured in America; fruits, not only the mmoner kinds which are raised in abundance, but also figs, oranges, citrons, raisins and persimmons, with the most improved methods of drying, preserving and canning fruits and vegetables; nuts of v kind, indigenous as well as those which, having been brought from abroad, have been found to thrive in our soil; dye stuffs; sumac, oak bark and all other tanning agents, the tanning properties to shown by samples of the product in connection with the exhibition of the plants themselves; roofs riety, among them a valuable plant little known growing wild in Texas, and which, in the opinion of the Commissioner of Agriculture, deserves a place among the staples of commerce; broom corn, with illustrations of its culture and manufacture; eramberries, with samples of every variety of vine and berry; rice in its different stages of growth and preparation; corn in all its features, from the variety of the West and South, with stalks ten or twelve feet high, to the Northern species, which attains a height of collection of the ground brave up to the inst moment.

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o the Northern species, which attains a height of all corn reducts, from a dodger to a whiskey punch. In connection with the wheat exhibit the Commissioner wishes to send a model flouring mill, in which a patent flouring process may be exhibited, the collect of which can be disposed of as a sample of that Americans can do in this important branch of dustry. Cotton being our largest article of export or exhibition of it will naturally be one of the most. product of which can be disposed of as a sample of our exhibition of it will naturally be one of the most extensive sent from the agricultural department. It is hoped fully to illustrate everything of interest in connection with its growth, gathering and premodel cotton-gin, to be run at certain hours of the day, and to send with it a quantity of seed cotton to be ginned, pressed and baled.

Two sailing ships and a steamer will be ready to sail in February and March under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy with goods for the French Exposition, Commander Wm. A. Kirkland has been designated to command the Supply, the first to be londed. The Supply is at New-York, and will sail from that port. The Constitution, it is thought and she will be loaded at Philadelphia. Commander Kirkland commanded the Supply during the Vienna Exposition, and on his return to the United States wrote a complete report of the

Commissioner-General McCormick received to-day no less than 200 applications for assistant-commis sionerships, and the demand still seems active. The appointees will generally be made by the President after consultation with the Secretary of State, but the list will not be completed until after the recess. A telegram was sent to Daniel J. Merrell, tendering him the position of assistant-commissioner from Pennsylvania. He has sent a written reply on the subject. A similar position was tendered to Directer-General Goshorn. He has replied that he cannot

The Commissioner-General has had an interview with the Freuch Minister, in order to ascertain what concessions of time, etc., may be expected by American exhibitors, in view of the expiration of the period fixed by the regulations of the Exposition for the allotment of space. M. Outrey expressed himself highly gratified at the acceptance of the invitation of his Government. He said that he

himself highly gratified at the acceptance of the invitation of his Government. He said that he would insure an extension of time, and any other facilities that the French Government can give for the encouragement of American exhibitors.

The Commissioner-General has decided that in addition to the offices here and in New-York, he will open a branch office at Philadelphia.

A letter was received to-day from Frederick Franchek, of Philadelphia, urging the creation of a woman's department at the Exposition. The proposition is received with favor, and a lady assistant commissioner will probably be designated.

The Secretary of the National Wool Growers' Association called upon the Commissioner of Agriculture, to-day, to consult in regard to the best plan for a wool exhibit, especially of three varieties of American merino wool.

TARIFF REVISION. TWO SUB-COMMITTEES TO STAY IN WASHINGTON AND INVESTIGATE THE SUBJECT, [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Dec. 18 .- Two sub-committees of the Committee on Ways and Means will hold sessions some time during the recess to inquire into the subject of a revision of the Revenue laws. One of them, with Fernando Wood at its head, will consider the question of revising the tariff. The other, with Mr. Tucker as its chairman, will investigate the subject of internal revenue. Considerable interest is manifested in regard to the proposed imposition of duties on tea and coffee. As neither of those investigations tees themselves have the commend. The tea and coffee tax was discussed by the Committee on Ways and Means during the last Congress after Secretary Bristow had recommended a restoration of the tax, but the bill proposing to impose duties on them was de-

feated through the opposition of Fernando Wood, now chairman of the committee,

THE FOREIGN POSTS. THE CONSULATE-GENERAL AT PARIS-A CANDIDATE FOR THE BELGIAN MISSION.

[BY TRLEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Washington, Dec. 18.-It is reported among Senators who still remain in the city that ex-Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, has been selected as the new Consul-General at Paris in the place of General Terbet. Mr. Hitchcock is a graduate of Williams College, Massachusetts, a lawyer by profession and has been connected with public affairs in Nebraska since its organization as a Territory.

The papers of Private Dalzell, of Ohio, on file at the State Department, recommending his appointment to the Belgian Mission, make a strong showing in his favor. Among them is an autograph letter from the late Senator Morton, besides carnest recommendations from Generals Noyes, Garfield and Banks, Senator Matthews, Representative Vorhes, and a great number of other influential Republi-

## LEAVING WASHINGTON. VACATION EXCURSIONS EAST AND WEST,

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. Washington, Dec. 18.-Nearly all the Senators and Representatives have already left Washington, in regard to the extent and character of the exhibit and by the end of the week few in official life will remain here whom important business does not denet will go to New-York on Thursday evening. A party consisting of Senators Blaine, Cameron, Dorsey and Chaffee, Ex-Secretary Robeson, will be much less than could be profitably expended in showing to foreign nations the endless variety and generally superior quality of our natural productions; but the best possible display will be made with the limited means available.

Only the general plan upon which it is hoped the agricultural exhibit may be arranged has as yet been considered. The details will be medified or exhibit may be arranged has as yet.

## THE HURON WRECK.

THE COURT OF INQUIRY HOLDS COMMANDER RYAN RESPONSIBLE-A REPORT IN REGARD TO GATH-ERING THE DEAD.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

Washington, Dec. 18 .- The opinion of the Navai Court of Inquiry in the Huron disaster has promulgated by the Secretary of the Navy. It gives a synopsis of all the testimony taken in the course of the The conclusions of the court are that Commander Ryan was primarily responsible for the le mg officer, made errors in navigation; also that the deck officers on the night of her loss might have been at fault in not ascertaining the accuracy of the perpendicular

The court says the commanding officer of a vessel is its supreme authority, and that if any accident occurs by reason of his not having ascertained accurately the de-dections of the compass, from any influence of the ship itself, he must be held responsible for that want of care. It refers frequently to matters that were brought out in the testimony, giving evidence of want of scamanship on the ill-fated Huron.

the poles being numbered systematically, the number of noiles from Norfolis being designated by numeral, and the poles in each mile by Bonan characters. "Only six of the bodies could be identified by their features; the others by marks on their bodies and clothes."

I feel indefected to the members of the Paireer Island, Curritues and Curritues Light-house clobs, and particularly to the keeper of the Curritues Beach light-house (Mr. Burreugne), and family, for their kindness and hospitality to nivself and party. Mr. Wilham T. Brinkley, of Nags Head, and Mossrs, Baum and Poynee, of Curritues, did everything in their power to assist me, as well as the keepers of Lide Saving Stations Nos. 4, 5, and 6. Before closing my report, I would respectfully call your attention to the conduct of Master Charles A. Clark, U. S. N. He was ever zealous, vigitant, and indefatigable in the discharge of his laborious duries while assisting me during my stay on the heach; and also, my thanks are due to Licutemant P. H. Harrington, U. S. Marine Corps, and Assistant-Surgeon Arthur for their uniting efforts to assist me in every way in their power. The marines rendered efficient service in patrolling the beach night and day, for a distance of seven miles north and south of the wreek. The saliors who were with me did their disagreeable duty in conveying and identifying the bodies cheerfully under all circumstances, particularly Samuel Clark (O. S. E. F.), by whom most of the bodies were erfully under all circumstances, particularly Samue rk (O. S. E. F.), by whom most of the bodies were utiled, he having marked a great many with indu

#### CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL. ARGUING FOR \$90,000 OF COTTON TAXES.

nk, and recognizing the marks whenever found. It close a last of the graves, also a chart giving the location

Argument was also heard to-day upon the question of refunding the Internal Revenue tax of 2 per cent paid by certain claimants on raw cotton. The claimants contend that they have twice paid the tax of 2 per cent imposed upon all cotton in 1865, first, in paying the regular tax of 2 cents a pound, and afterward that samples were taken of it from 300,000 bales and a second tax collected on the bales made up from those samples. They also claim that they paid twice of cotton upon which a first tax had been collected, by reason of being forced to pay a tax on a quantity of that staple that was repacked after being damaged. The amount of the tax claimed is about 200,000. The case under consideration has been pending in the internal Revenue office for several years, but the evidence has

SUITS TO RECOVER LUMBER AND ROSIN. Commissioner Williamson, of the Land Ofice, is informed that a writ of replevin has been issued from the United States Court, in Florida, to recover 900,000 feet of sawed lumber, and 4,000 pine logs, cut from public lands. Governor George F. Drew, Lewis Bucki, James Parker, and Lafayette Dickens are the derendants. Su'is have also been instituted for possession of several hundred barrels of rosin and turpentue, and warrants have been issued for the arrest of various persons, including Messrs. Parker and Dickens, above re-

ferred to. ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON. Arguments were made to-day before Assist ant-Secretary of the Treasury French in favor of the free admission of the bronze statue of St. George and the

Dragon, intended as an ornament to St. George's Hail, Philadelphia. Two questions present themselves to the department: First, whether the statue is such within th AN INSPECTION AT NEW YORK.

Chief of Special Agents of the Post Office Department Parker, and Mr. J. H. Maer, Chief Clerk to the First Assistant Postmaster-General, have, by direction of Judge Key, gone to New-York to make an examnation in regard to the cierical force of the Post Office o that city, and report if it can be reduced without interfering with the necessary business of the office. On their raturn these gentlemen may stop at Philadelphia

and make a similar examination of the office there. These examinations will be made in all the large cities in the Union, in accordance with the Act of March 3, 1877, which requires the Postmaster-General to inquire if the clerical force in all the post offices in such cities can properly be reduced.

GENERAL HOWARD NOT NOW TO BE TRIED. Three cases were called in the Criminal Court of the District, yesterday, against General O. O. Howard. These cases grew out of his administration of the affairs of the Freedmen's Bureau, but were indefinitely postponed, because the Government does not de-sire to relieve him from his present important military duties to come here for trial.

## WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 18, 1877. General E. A. Merritt, the new Surveyor of the Port of New-York, is in Washington. He called on the President and Secretary of the Treasury to-day.

A number of colored men here have formed an organization under the name of the Negro American Society. Its purpose is to devise a remedy for the excessive mor-tality among colored people in this section of the coun-Newspapers and periodicals are sending out large num-

s throughout the country, inclosed bers of sample copies throughout the country, inclosed in which are printed blanks, etc., offering special rates to clubs, etc. All such inclosures, without payment of in which are printed blanks, etc., offering special rates to clubs, etc. All such inclosures, without payment of postage as third-class matter, are contrary to law. The proper rates are for printed blanks, one cent per onnee, and for circulars, etc., one cent for every two ounces, and for circulars, etc., one cent for every two ounces, and for circulars, etc., one cent for every two ounces, photographs, or matter of like nature, as legitimate supplements to newspapers, and the inclosing of any such in periodical publications will subject the latter to the postage which such matter is required to pay when sent separately.

## GORDON VS. CONKLING.

LETTER FROM W. E. CHANDLER. THE SENATOR FROM GEORGIA REOPENS THE DIS-PUTE AND SAYS THE SENATOR FROM NEW-YORK INSULTED HIM.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: A striking instance of "Southern Faith" is

the course pursued by Senator Gordon's friends since the assumed settlement of the difficulty between him and Senator Conkling.

The paper relative to the "so-called misunderstanding" between Senators Conkling and Gordon, while stating that one party used the "first offensive words" decided that there should be mutually and simultaneously withdrawn all the remarks of both. This decision, if binding, was clearly a waiver of the right of the party to whom the first offensive words were spoken to require, in order to a settlement, that those words should be first withdrawn. Such waiver clearly left no right to the party who first offended, to publicly insist that he was first insulted by the other, and was proceeding to notice and resent the insult and demand satisfaction when friends intervened.

Is not this being done by Senator Gordon or his friends ? The Washington Post of Saturday asserts that the insults of Conkling, systematically given to Southern Senators for the deliberate purpose of stirring up bad blood, culminated in executive sesthe transaction which represents Senator Conkling as first insulfing Senator Gordon, while the latter only "rebuked the insult" and "firmly and distinetly" repeated his remarks. Next, The Washington Post of Monday has an interview with Senator Gordon, who is represented as saying that the account in Saturday's Post was precisely accurate, and that a true account of the matter could be obtained had not the matter become personal Gordon would sland are the towns of Isleta. Some expedition. On this by the Senate in his position. Senator Gordon felt that he was right; he also felt that Mr. Conkling's remarks could be construed in no other way than as an insult to him, and so his friends felt." This version of the facts is being spread over the whole South, and also, to a less extent, in the North. Now if it should be true, as I assert it is,

1. That Senator Gordon uttered the first offensive 2. That Senator Coukling replied in justifiable par-

liamentary language, and, therefore, 3. That Senator Gordon was all wrong and Sena-

tor Conkling entirely right. Should not Senator Gordon, if responsible for The Post's utterances, or his friend be requested to refrain from giving out untrue statements of the affair, and should not the correct statement be given to the world in as authentic a form as has the settlement, whereby Senator Conkling has waived that of a war of races in El Paso County, while which was first due to him, namely, an apology from Senator Gordon !

It is of some importance to know whether this first attempt to renew plantation manners in the Senate is to be understood as based upon the old Southern plan: "First insult your Northern man. If he resents it in any way, insist that he first insulted you, and either knock him down, shoot him on the W. E. CHANDLER. spot, or challenge him. Washington, Dec. 11, 1877.

# BROKEN BANKS.

THE CHICAGO CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK. Chicago, Dec. 18 .- It is now about certain that W. F. Endicott, president of the defunct Central transferred to the bank his shares of stock, and taken cash instead. Receiver Glover reports that his investi-

FAILURE OF AN ILLINOIS SAVINGS BANK. Springfield, Ill., Dec. 18 .- The Springfield

Savings Bank closed this morning. Its liabilities are \$162,000, chiefly to small depositors. Most of the direc ors are wealthy, and it is stated that all liabilities will be settled in full. The bank has been doing business ten THE NEW-AMSTERDAM SAVINGS BANK DISSOLVED

ALBANY, Dec. 18 .- In the case of the People agt. The New-Amsterdam Savings Bank of New-York

# FIVE MEN DROWNED.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 18 .- The oyster pungy, Samuel Washington, was capsized in the mouth of the Rappubannock River on Thursday night last, and the crew, consisting of Captain Cephas Bussels and four men, were drowned. The pungy was returning from Ealthmore to Curtis's Creek when the disaster overtook her. She is sunk with the topmast only sticking out of

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES. DEADWOOD, D. T., Dec. 18.—The "Old Abe" mine situated near Lead City has been sold for \$50,000.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 18.—The workingmen to-dight nominated James W. Anderson for Mayor. This makes BEACHBURG, Ont., Dec. 18 .- Two shocks of earth-

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Dec. 18.—The National Reform

DEADWOOD, D. T., Dec. 18.—Troops en route to the Hills from Fort Laramie are within fifty miles of this city. Those from Fort Laramie are within fifty miles of this city. PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 18.—The new County fourt House was dedicated this evening. An oration was devered by Culet's ustice Durfee, and addressed by the Hon. braham Payne. BALTIMORE, Dec. 18 .- At a meeting of the Corn

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—The American Dairy Exhibi-tion opened here at noon to-day with a display of butter and cheese, and a numerous attendance of visitors representing all the dairy étates and Canada.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 18.—The liabilities of Tolle, Bolton & Co., who made an assignment yesterday, are estimated at \$425,000. The assets are notainally above that amount, but at a forced sale would run much below.

ALBANY, Dec. 18.—The bids for the Legislative printing were opened to day. They range from \$100,000 to \$120,000, Weed, Parsons & Co., being the lowest in round figures, but there are details to be considered before sufficient information can be obtained to award the contract.

## THE MEXICAN BORDER.

MASSACRE AT ELIZARIO, SURRENDER OF THE STATE TROOPS-HOWARD, AT KENSIN AND M'BRIDE SHOT WHILE PRISONERS-

THE LERDO MOVEMENT. The State troops besieged at Elizario surrendered to the Mexican mob Monday afternoon, and Howard, Atkensin, and McBride were immediately shot by their captors. Governor Hubbard, in announcing the facts to the War Department, says there are reports that Mexicans have crossed the Rio Grande to aid their fellow-countrymen. The Federal troops under Colonel Young and Lieutenant Bullis reached Fort Clark, Texas, Monday evening. General Escobedo, who is at New-Orleans, denies that he designs an expedition against Diaz from American soil, and says that Lerdo has no desire for a conflict between Mexico and the United States; but the troops under Colonel Amador have disarmed Diaz's guards at Mier, and Mexican refugees in Texas are flocking to Lerdo's standard. Colonel

#### tify before the House Committee on Military Affairs TRIUMPH OF THE MEXICAN MOB. SURRENDER OF THE TEXAS STATE TROOPS-HOWARD,

Shafter and Lieutenants Bullis and Turner will tes-

ATKINSON, AND M'BRIDE SHOT. GALVESTON, Texas, Dec. 18 .- A News special from Austin says: "A dispatch has been received by the Governor from the Sheriff of El Paso County, stating that the State troops surrendered to the Mexican mob at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Their ammunition was exhausted and they were unable to hold out longer. After the surrender, Howard, Atkinson,

and McBride were shot to death by the Mexicans." The News's Fort Clark special dispatch, dated yesterday, says the command under Colonel Young and Lieutenant Bullis arrived here this (Monday evening. They report having experienced very bad weather on their return trip, their blankets and clothing being drenched since the 8th inst. No details of their operations have yet been made known. The Governor has received the following dispatch from the Sheriff of El Paso County, dated December 17:

Your telegram received; unable to raise in this county over ten men; the fresh help is expected in forty-eight hours; I fear it will be too late; the rangers are getting short of ammunition, and the mob is undermining the buildings.

## WAITING FOR REINFORCEMENTS.

CHICAGO, Dec. 18,-Captain Blair, commanding the United States troops at El Paso, Texas, telegraphs, under date of December 17, that nothing new had occurred at San Elizario. Up to that time only one man, named Ellis, belonging to the Texas Rangers, had been killed. The advance United States troops en route to San Elizario from points in New-Mexico were hourly expected.

The station of El Paso is the oldest Spanish ettlement in Northern Mexico, the Spaniards having been induced by missionaries to send Don Juan Onate with soldiers and colonists to conquer and occupy the country known as New-Mexico about the year 1585. The outbreak which has now occurred withthe Texan limits affects an island about twenty miles in length, which lies in the river about ten miles below the plaza of El Paso proper. This island has been cultivated since the days of Onate, and the Mexican inhabitants are for of these towns, and is now the county sent. The govern ment of El Paso and the vicinity is by juntas or gatherings of the people, and whatever these gatherings resolve

Many years ago the salt lakes near El Paso had be public property. But they were really under the con-Austin, with Judge Howard as his agent, proposed to make these lakes a private possession by "taking them up" under the laws of the State governing the tocation of lands, popular opinion rebelled against this unaccustomed mode of proceeding, and the juntas declared that these lakes were common property by right of a long common use, the State laws to the conenemy, Louis Cardis. The contest became warmer and such proportions as to call for Pederal aid for its suppres-

# MILITARY REPORTS.

CAPTAIN BLAIR'S REPORT TO GENERAL POPE OF THE SITUATION ON SUNDAY-MOVEMENT OF THOOPS. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 .- The following has been received here:

"The following; telegram from General Pope is transmitted for the information of the General of the Army. P. H. SHERIDAN, Lleutenant General."

Captain Blair telegraphs from El Paso on the 16th that the mob have been up to El Paso, Mexico, to get a small gan there, but Judge Padiilo refused to let them have it. Mr. Majeffen has just come from the other side All his old friends turned the cold shoulder on him to day, and one of them told him he had bet ter come into town, which he will do to-morrow, Men belonging to the mob came up to Ysleta yesterday, and took all the ammunition they could find If a good blow is to be struck, the sooner the better. Colonei Hatch reports that Captain Blair has been tele Colonei Hatch reports that Capitain hear has been de-graphed the novement of troops now taking place, and he has been directed to take charge of two field-places and ammunition at El Paso, Texas, and put them in the Custom Honse, under guard of his detachment. Colonei Hatch thinks the troops will arrive in time to prevent any serious trouble.

John Pope, Commanding Brigadier-General.

General Pope also telegraphs under date of yester-

"Ten companies of the 9th Cavalry and one company of infantry are en route to El Paso. Advance companies are expected to arrive there to-day or te-morrow. The whole force probably numbers a little over 300 men-

#### THE LERDO MOVEMENT. DENIAL BY GENERAL ESCOBEDO OF AN ATTEMPT TO

ORGANIZE AN EXPEDITION AGAINST DIAZ-NO DESIRE FOR A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO. INT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 18 .- General Escobedo, of reent Mexican border fame, reached New-Orleans last evening from Brownsville, Texas, which place he left December 8. He says his visit to Louisiana is simply in pursuit of private business, and that after remaining here about a fortnight he will leave for Galveston. In a brief conversation he utterly disclaimed the charge that his recent visit to the Rio Grande was for the purpose of organizing an expedition against Diaz. He denies that Lerdo and his adherents cretly encourage a conflict between the United States and the Diaz Government. He does not ap prehend any danger of war between the two Governments, and says it would be deplored by none more than by the Lerdo party. He says that as between the beligerents Lerdo lwould certainly be a Mexican. Touching the late troubles in El Paso County, of which he was first informed by the New-Orleans newspapers of the 17th, Escobede said the difficulty was not between Americans and Mexicans, but between Americans only. The occurrence of the outbreak did not change his opinion that peace would be maintained between the two na-

LERDO'S FORCES INCREASING. GALVESTON, Texas, Dec. 18 .- A San Antonio dis-Lerdo forces, with 200 men, has been disarming Diaz's guards at Mier, and releasing them upon their promise not to take up arms again against Lerdo's cause. Mexicans favoring Lerdo, who had taken patch to The News, says: "Colonel Amador, of the

refuge in Texas, are flocking to his standard. His accessions in one day reached upwards of forty men.

## MR. CONKLING'S PLANS.

POPULAR NOTIONS AS TO WHY THE SENATOR PUT HIMSELF AT THE HEAD OF THE MEXICAN IN-VESTIGATION.

IBT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 .- Some of the members of the Conkling special committee appointed to investigate the condition of affairs on the Rio Grande, attempt to throw mystery around its proceedings. This is already bearing its natural crop of sensation-

In the first place the raising of the committee itself has universally been accepted as an adroit movement on the part of Senator Conkling, not only to secure an opportunity to watch Secretary Evart's Mexican policy with a view of attacking it if there are any vulnerable points in it, but to place himself in opposition to take the lead in the Senate if the border troubles should assume great importance, and become the exciting political question of the hour. These interpretations of Mr. Conkling's motives may be erroneous, but they are almost universally accepted, as Mr. Conkling must have known they would be when he moved his resolution. There is no public man who looks farther down the lane of the future than the Republican Senator from New-York, or who understands better in advance what the popular interpretation, as well as the political effect, of

any movement will be.

As the motives which governed Mr. Conkling in calling for the creation of the special committee have been freely discussed, so has there been much conjecture about the manner in which he will pursue the investigation. Of course (say the gossips) he will call upon Secretary Evarts for all the correspondence which has passed between the State Department and the Mexican Government, and any of partment and the Mexican Government, and any of the officers or agents, or the representatives of the United States, the other side of the Rio Grande. This will feree Secretary Evarts to show his hand, and all there is in it. If he has been dickering with Diaz for the annexation of some of the northern States of Mexico, in return for recognition, or if he has been trying to provoke a war, those facts cannot be concealed. In short, Mr. Conkling will have just such an opportunity as he most desires to sit in judgment on Secretary Evarts's administration.

most desires to sit in judgment on Secretary Evarts's administration.

Another report, that was even believed by some usually well-informed people yesterday, was that Mr. Conkling would take a part of his committee to the City of Mexico some time during the Winter, and pursue his inquiries there. Of course this is absurd. That such runors gain currency in Washington, however, and are reneated by sane people, proves the popular interest, if not in the subject of the border troubles, at least in the effect of the policy of the United States upon our own internal policy, and on the future of leading men.

The truth unquestionably is that Mr. Conkling himself has not determined what kind of investigation he will enter into, and the mysterious answers of members of his committee to questions about his purposes are provoked by ignorance on their own part. During the two meetings that have already been held, the committee has done little mere than to organize.

to organize.

## CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS.

GENERAL FRISBEE BEFORE THE SENATE COMMIT-TEE-COLONEL SHAFTER AND LIEUTENANTS BULLIS AND TURNER TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Dec. 18.-The examination of General Sherman, yesterday, was largely pro forma. The General of the Army has so often unpacked his budget of knowledge about affairs on the Rio Grande and beyond, for the inspection of committees of Congress, that what he has to say has lost much of its former interest in spite of the entertaining way in which he always tells it. General Frisbie, of California, examined to-day, did not add much to the fund of knowledge on this general subject. He has spent much time in Mexico, and is familiar with the character of the country and its inhabitants, the natural resources of the nation, the difficulties with which settlers have to contend, the possibilities of developing the contend, the possibilities of developing the country, the character of Diaz, etc. He testified as to these point. After hearing him the committee adjourned for two weeks. The same subject was considered in the Cabinet meeting to-day; but, as Mr. Evarts was absent, no important questions of international policy were taken up. It was said in the Cabinet—on what authority cannot be learned—that the Mexican troops recently ordered to the Rio Grande would not, under any circumstances, cross the river.

In the meantime rather exciting news has been

received from El Paso. This evening after the close of the Departments Governor Hubbard, of Texas, telegraphed to the War Department as follows:

AUSTIN, Texas, Dec. 18, 1877.

The Hon. G. W. McCrart, Secretary of War:
Just received the following dispatch from Sheriff Kerber of El Paso County: "The rangers surrendered at 3 o'clock b. n., yesterday, after having exhausted all their ammunition. Judge Howard, Atkinson and McEride were shot to death after the surrender. The having the statement of the statem amminition. Judge Howard, Akinson and Akinson were shot to death after the surreinder. The balance of the State troops are held as prisoners." These latter will doubtless share the same fate unless rescued by United States forces who are under your orders marching to their relief. We have information of large bodies of Mexican citizens participating in this massacre.

R. B. HURBARD, Governor.

A copy of this dispatch was forwarded to General Sherman, who is on his way to St. Louis; but it is ger to not probable that any additional steps can be taken consent by the Administration for the preservation of the peace at El Paso. All the available troops have been ordered to that point, and they are moving with the greatest possible expedition. The nearest gartison is 150 miles distant, and not fifteen, as was erroneously published yesterday.

# IGENERAL PRESS DISPATCILI

Washington, Dec. 18 .- In compliance with the request of the Sub-committee of the House Committee on Military Affairs, appointed to investigate our relations with Mexico, the Secretary of War has summoned Colonel Shafter, and Licutenants Bullis and moned Council Statice, and Localities plants are freezing margaders into Mexican territory, to appear before the sub-committee, January 7. Until the arrival of these officers the sub-committee will transact no business unless an emergency should arise which would necessitate their meeting at the call of the chairman.

The Sub-committee of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, of which Representative Schielcher is chairman, The Sab-committee of the House Committee of Foreign Affairs, of which Representative Schiecher is chairman, who also have the Mexican border question under consideration, expect to procure and examine all the decimentary evidence in relation to Mexican troubles, in order to be prepared to report thereon to the full committee as soon as possible after the reconvening of Congress.

# THE IOWA TOWN TAX LAW.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 18 .- A special dispatch from Davenport, Ia, says: "The Supreme Court has decided in the case appealed from this county, that the Legislative act allowing cities and towns to vote a tax in aid of railroads or other public corporations is constitutional."

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES-BY TELEGRAPH. TORONTO, Dec. 18.—A man named Charles E. Charles et al. Charles et al. Charles in Chicago. He was remanded to jail to await

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 18.—In the Supreme Court his morning, it was decided in the Victor murder case, that he flovernor has power to commute the sentence of lumatics rithout their consent. NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 18 .- A donkey engine of the

MONTREAL, Dec. 18.—At the billiard tournament here to-night, Capron, of Brantford, beat Donoghne, of Mon-treal, 309 to 261: Burleyst, of Hamilton, beat Frank Dion, of Montreal, 375 to 254; and B. Jakes, of Coburg, beat Donoghne 100 to 288.

CINCINSATI, Ohio, Dec. 18 .- At Sisterville, W. Va., on Sunday, in an affray between Nathan Wright and "Jack" Spaniding, the former was fatally injured. Spaniding was dangerously wounded by a shot in the head by an officer

When arrested fills.

When the Mass., Dec. 18.—As three men and a boy were driving to Grosvenordale on Sunday evening, from Dudley, where they had been on a carouse, they ran into obstructions on the road side and smashed the waron. Henry Nickerson was instantily killed, Wabble was fatally, and the bey badly injured.

boy bady injured.

RUTLAND, Vt., Dec. 18.—Dr. O. F. Sherman, of Middletown, Vt., and Daniel Conway were arrested to-day charged with malpractice in the case of Eliza McMahon, the latter's housekeeper, from the effects of which she died, on Sunday mening. Conway was bed in the sum of \$1,500. The doctor's examination was postponed till he recovers from an extended the transfer of the men. St. John, Dec. 18 .- Great excitement was created

## THE ORIENTAL CONFLICT.

GREAT BRITAIN ALARMED. SIXTY THOUSAND MORE RUSSIAN SOLDIERS TO BE MOBILIZED.

The Porte has modified its tone in regard to peace, and explains that its recent circular simply meant that it desired to treat on the basis of the proposals made by the Conference. England is in disfavor at Constantinople, being held responsible for the hostility of Servia. The British Parliament is to assemble January 17, which is about three weeks earlier than the usual time at which it meets. The Government intends to ask it to vote money for military and naval armaments. General Horvatovich, the Servian Commander, is marching eastward from Adlie, which he captured recently. Russia has ordered 60,000 fresh troops to be organized.

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT CONVENED. LARGE APPROPRIATIONS FOR MILITARY EXPENSES

TO BE ASKED-SIGNS OF ALARM INCREASING. LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 19, 1877.

#### The morning papers officially announce that Parliament will meet January 17. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DISSATISFIED.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 18, 1877.

The policy to be pursued by England in the present crisis in Fastern affairs, consequent upon the issuance of the Porte's circular appealing for the mediation of the Powers, and the determination expressed by Russia to resist all interference in her efforts to subjugate Turkey, and to compel her to treat directly with the Czar for peace, is now the all-absorbing topic in English Parliamentary circles, and there is much speculation as to what course the Government will take. It is stated semi-officially in official circles that the Government, through its Premier, Lord Beaconsfield, will declare in strong terms its disapproval of Russia's concluding a peace on her own account with Turkey. The course England will pursue in case this remonstrance is not recognized by Russia is a matter in which the deepest interest is taken, and on which there is great difference of opinion. The probability that Parliament will meet so soon as January indicates than an Auti-Russian policy will be pursued by the Government. This creates a great

### sensation in political circles. THE TONE OF THE PRESS.

The Standard (Conservative organ) states that the Cabinet have decided to ask Parliament to vote a grant of money for such an increase of the British Army as the present state of Europe demands.

ENGLAND IN DISPAYOR AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 18, 1877.

A Constantinople telegram to The Times says: England is in great disfavor here on account of Servia's treachery, which English influence in favor of Servia rendered possible. There is a strong impression here that England will oppose the opening of the Dardanelles, which Turkey, and probably all the other powers, are prepared to concede. If the Turks refuse the concession it will be because of the conviction that England will help them in their ex-

The London correspondent of The Manchester

Guardian telegraphs that journal as follows: Gardian telegraphs that journal as follows:
It was the gossip of all the political clubs to-day
(Sonday) that the cabinet is divided about the measures
to be taken to prevent a one-sided alteration of the treaty
of Paris, and that Lord Derby, Foreian Minister, and the
Marques of salisbury. Secretary of State for India, are
opposed to the pet scheme of Lord Beaconsneid, the Premer, to sammon Parliament much
cirtler than usual. It is exceedingly probable that Pariament will meet on the 17th of January, to which time
It was prorogaed has week, but the means by which
Lord Beaconsfield hopes to maintain British interests
under the Treaty of Paris, will require further deliberation. Parliament usually meets in February.

A Northannatoushire member of Parliament tele-

A Northamptonshire member of Parliament telegraphs to The Western Morning News, a daily journal printed at Plymouth, that the Government is inviting contracts in Northampton for the prompt supply of 300,000 boots and shoes. This is the largest

NO NEED FOR ALARM.

The Times deprecates too much importance being attached to the early summoning of Parliament, and points to numerous instances in which the Cubinet's actions have been misinterpreted even by their own supporters, as, for instance, the sending of the flect to Besika Bay. If any previous Cabinet had would have been that they were about to demand a grant of money to support some step taken by the Queen on the advice of her Ministers. The Times thinks that such a conclusion to this case would be far in advance of the trath. Parliament will not meet to enforce a resolution that has been formed by the Ministers, but more probably to spare the Ministers the trouble of forming a resolution. By the time Fachament meets the Government will perhaps be able to show that our interests in some way are attacked, but for the present the country, however irritated at Russian amount and Servian treason, cannot believe itself in any danger.

THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE FEARED. The Standard, in its leader, explains that the victory of the Russians is not the cause of the summoning of Parliament, but the license which is given to Russia by Germany and Austria to use the victory in her own way-this is what constitutes the dan-British interests. England can never consent to the quarret being arranged on these terms. She may even more cause to demur to a peace made directly between the believerents. She claims a voice in the settlement, and it is that she may be prepared to insist upon that voice that the Government is adopting those measures which Parliament will be invited to sanction.

A WAR POLICY FORESHADOWED.

The Post (semi-official), in its leading editorial, foreshadows a grant for military preparations, and, after eviewing the rumors which have been current of late concerning a separate arrangement between Russin and "To make England's words heard, to make mediation respected or intervention effective, it is ecessary to appeal to the representatives of the nation for support. We cannot entertain the slightest doubt that Parliament will not only readily accord whatever will heartly indorse a policy in accordance with the true interests, permanent peace, and the poblest traditions of the country. It is certain the Cabinet is united in its resolve, and with the opening of the New Year we shal witness the inception of a clear and National policy."

#### THE PROPOSED PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. CONSTANTINOPLE, Tuesday, Dec. 18, 1877.

Erroneous interpretations having been given to the circular of the Porte, inviting mediations it is officially explained that Turkey does not approach the powers as a vanquished State, since she still har two lines of defence which the Government believes she would be able to hold. The Porte, by its eiren lar, desires to intimate its willingness to consider the proposals made by the Constantinople Conference. As the war began owing to Turkey's refusa to adhere to those proposals, the Porte thinks if might be terminated now on that basis.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 18, 1877. Reuter's Bucharest dispatch states that Prince Gortschakoff has instructed the Russian representatives abroad to observe the greatest possible reserve relative to the conditions of peace which Russis might be disposed to advance.

MORE RUSSIANS ORDERED TO THE FIELD LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 19, 1877.

The Times's Bucharest correspondent reports that orders have been given in Russia for the immediate mobilization of 60,000 fresh troops. New battalion are constantly crossing the Danube.

## THE MERIDEN, CONN., ELECTION. MERIDEN, Conn., Dec. 18 .- At the municipa

election in this city to-day, H. Wales Sines, the Republi can candidate, was reclected Mayor by an overwhelming majority. The other Republican candidates for city offices were also elected. The Council is coreposed of 2-Republicans and 6 Democrats.

#### CALIFORNIA'S NEW SENATOR. SACRAMENTO, Dec. 18 .- At noon to-day the

Senate elected J. T. Farley United States Senator, by i strictly party vote. The House of Representatives vote for United States Senator to-day, and J. T. Farley wa elected by a strictly party vote.